

Lieutenant Commander Michael LaPrade

Commanding Officer, Arco (ARDM 5)

Lieutenant Commander LaPrade entered the Naval Service under the delayed entry program in July 1978. After graduation from high school in Philadelphia, Penn., he was assigned to Recruit Training and Electronics Technician "A" school in Great Lakes, Ill. His next assignment was in New London, Conn., for Basic Enlisted Submarine School in 1980. He then reported for his first sea duty assignment in May 1980 as Electronics Technician Third Class onboard USS SKATE (SSN 578) Pearl Harbor, Hawaii where he qualified in submarines in December 1980. He was advanced to Electronics Technician Second Class during this tour. His next duty assignment was onboard USS MCKEE (AS 41) in San Diego, California where he served as Electronic Repair Shop (67A) Leading Petty Officer from January 1984 to January 1985.

In February 1985, he was advanced to Electronics Technician First Class as well as reporting for duty in USS GURNARD (SSN 662) in San Diego, California as Electronics Technician Leading Petty Officer. He reported for his next tour of duty as a Recruit Company Commander, San Diego, California from April 1988 to March 1991. During this tour he was responsible for training over 700 recruits. In early 1991, he was assigned in USS MINNEAPOLIS-SAINT PAUL (SSN 708) in Norfolk, Virginia as Electronics Technician Leading Petty Officer. He was advanced to Electronics Technician Chief in October 1991.

In February 1992, LCDR LaPrade was selected to the Limited Duty Officer Program and was commissioned to Ensign in July 1993 with a submarine electronics line designator (6280). He was then assigned to USS MCKEE (AS 41) as the R-4 Division Officer where he completed his Surface Warfare Officer's Qualification and earned his Gold Surface Warfare Insignia. After 18 months of his 36-month tour he was elevated to Ships Navigator and Navigation/Operations Department Head. In October 1996, he transferred to Naval Ordnance Test Unit, Cape Canaveral, Florida as a Test Instrumentation Officer responsible for the conversion and launch of TRIDENT test missiles.

In June 2000, LCDR LaPrade was assigned as Communications Officer for Submarine Squadron Twenty in Kings Bay, Georgia. He was then assigned to Submarine Squadron Eleven in San Diego, California as the Electronic Material Officer from June 2003 to April 2005. His most recent tour took him back to Naval Ordnance Test Unit, Cape Canaveral, Florida as Test Instrumentation Department Head. During his tour, his department was responsible for the successful conversion and launch of six TRIDENT test missiles during two Commander-in-Chief evaluation tests and one United Kingdom Demonstration and Shakedown operation.

Lieutenant Commander LaPrade is qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer and is entitled to wear the Enlisted Submarine Warfare insignia.

Personal awards include: Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (seven awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Battle Efficiency "E" Ribbon (two awards), Navy Good Conduct Medal (three awards), Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Medal (one bronze star), Global War on Terrorism Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (one bronze star), Expert Rifle Medal and Expert Pistol Medal.